

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020052-9

COMINT

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI PAGE OF PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740221

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS,  
STATE PCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS  
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3 25X1A

DATE: 21 FEB 74

SUBJECT: UNSEASONABLE WEATHER THREATENS SOVIET GRAIN CROP

REF:

A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON IZVESTIA YESTERDAY IMPLIES THAT MELTING  
SNOW, FLOODING, AND ICE CRUSTS THREATEN THIS YEAR'S SOVIET WINTER  
GRAIN CROP. ALTHOUGH CLAMORING NO SPECIAL GROUNDS FOR ALARM  
AND CONCERN, THE ARTICLE ORDERED FARMERS TO DRAIN FLOODED FIELDS  
IMMEDIATELY AND PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT SEVERE FROSTS  
COULD KILL CROPS DEPRIVED OF PROTECTIVE SNOW COVER.

UNSEASONABLE AND CHANGEABLE WEATHER HAS ALREADY LEFT THE CROP  
VULNERABLE. AN UNUSUALLY RAINY AUTUMN DELAYED SOME SOWING LAST  
YEAR, AND AN EARLY COLD SPELL SLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCED  
THE HARDINESS OF THE GRAIN IN MOST OF THE EUROPEAN USSR. A THAW

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IN LATE DECEMBER FOLLOWED BY A SUDDEN COLD SPELL IN MID-JANUARY  
DAMAGED SOWINGS IN THE NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE, THE CENTRAL BLACK  
EARTH REGION, AND THE LOWER VOLGA. THE SNOW COVER NEEDED TO  
INSULATE THE PLANTS FROM KILLING AIR TEMPERATURES WAS THIN OR  
ABSENT OVER MOST OF THE AREA THROUGH JANUARY. NOW, ABOVE-NORMAL  
TEMPERATURES FOR FEBRUARY HAVE COMPLETELY MELTED THE SNOW IN KEY  
AREAS. STANDING WATER AND ICE CRUSTS CAN SUFFOCATE SEEDLINGS  
IN SOME PLACES. MORE THREATENING TO ALL REGIONS, HOWEVER, IS  
THE WARM WEATHER WHICH REDUCES PLANT RESISTANCE TO EXTREME COLD,  
STILL LIKELY TO OCCUR.

ALTHOUGH THE WINTER GRAIN AREA LOST TO WINTERKILL COULD  
EXCEED THE LONG-RUN AVERAGE OF 20 PERCENT, A LARGE PLANTING LAST  
FALL AND THE RESEEDING OF DAMAGED AREAS WITH SPRING GRAIN COULD  
STILL PRODUCE A NORMAL OR ABOVE-NORMAL <sup>1</sup> 1974 GRAIN CROP. RESEEDING  
IS CENTERED ON FEED GRAINS, HOWEVER, SO THAT THE BREADGRAIN  
HARVEST COULD FALL BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. E-2 IMPDET.

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